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TO: MISS SALLY CAPLAN, THORN-EMI, LEGAL DEPARTMENT, THORN-EMI,
UPPER ST. MARTIN'S LANE, LONDON.

URGENT

FROM: A.W.D. WILLIS, COWARD CHANCE, LONDON
DATE: 19.3.82.
RE: PHILIP MORRIS AND THAMES TELEVISION
FILE REF: MJM.3847/AWDW

WE CONFIRM OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THIS AFTERNOON. IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR INFORMATION THAT THE ORIGINAL FILM (DEATH IN THE DESERT) DID BEAR A COPYRIGHT SYMBOL, AS A RESULT, THAMES HAVE THE PROTECTION OF U.S. COPYRIGHT LAWS UNDER UNIVERSAL COPYRIGHT CONVENTION APPLICABLE IN THE UNITED STATES.

OUR CLIENTS BELIEVE THAT KRON SHOWED THE FILM AND HAS DISTRIBUTED IT TO OTHER U.S. BROADCASTERS IN THE ERRONEOUS BELIEF THAT THE FILM IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN TO US REPEATING YOUR SUGGESTION THAT OUR CLIENT SHOULD TAKE AN ASSIGNMENT OF COPYRIGHT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING THAT LETTER AND WILL REPLY TO IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN THE MEANTIME, WE BELIEVE THAT IMMEDIATE STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE ARISING FROM KRON'S ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE BELIEF THAT THE FILM IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT THAMES SHOULD COMMUNICATE WITH KRON BY URGENT TELEX. WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WOULD NORMALLY COMMUNICATE WITH THEM THROUGH YOUR AGENTS IN NEW YORK AND/OR SAN FRANCISCO.

WE THINK THE TELEX SHOULD INFORM KRON AS FOLLOWS:

A. THAMES' FILM WAS SHOWN IN GREAT BRITAIN WITH THE COPYRIGHT NOTICE CALLED FOR BY THE UNIVERSAL COPYRIGHT CONVENTION;

B. UNDER THE CONVENTION, THE FILM IS NOT IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN BUT RATHER IS THE LEGAL PROPERTY OF THAMES IN THE U.S.A. AND ELSEWHERE; AND

C. KRON'S AIRING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE FILM INFRINGES THAMES' COPYRIGHT.

KRON SHOULD BE ADVISED AS A MATTER OF GREAT URGENCY TO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING DEMANDS:

1. KRON SHOULD RECALL AND DESTROY ALL COPIES OF THE FILM WHICH IT HAD DISTRIBUTED;

2. KRON SHOULD INFORM THAMES OF THE IDENTITY OF ALL PERSONS TO WHOM KRON SENT THE FILM AND OF ALL OTHERS WHO, TO KRON'S KNOWLEDGE OR BELIEF, POSSESS COPIES; AND

3. KRON SHOULD INFORM ALL PERSONS KNOWN OR BELIEVED BY KRON TO HAVE POSSESSED COPIES OF THE FILM .. INCLUDING THOSE WHO RECEIVED COPIES FROM KRON .. OF THE FACT THAT THAMES HOLD A VALID COPYRIGHT IN THE FILM AND THAT ANY FURTHER COPYING OR DISTRIBUTION WOULD CONTRAVENE THAMES' COPYRIGHT.

DEPENDING UPON KRON'S RESPONSE TO YOUR TELEX, WE WILL HAVE TO DISCUSS FURTHER WITH YOU WHETHER THAMES SHOULD TAKE ACTION IN THE U.S. COPYRIGHT. WHATEVER STEPS ARE TAKEN BY THAMES IN THE U.S., WE BELIEVE THAT YOUR TELEX DEMANDS TO KRON WOULD BE A USEFUL FIRST STAGE.

IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO HAVE YOUR CONFIRMATION THIS AFTERNOON THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO TELEX KRON IN THE FASHION SUGGESTED.

YOURS ...

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/njlx0000